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2005-11-05

May 4, 2005

Joseph Melchers, Esquire  
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Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
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**RECEIVED**

MAY 5 2005

Re: HTLD Tariff Filing; Docket No. 2005-84-C

OFFICE OF SPECIAL ASSISTANTS  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Dear Mr. Melchers:

This is in response to your letter of April 15, 2005 pertaining to the tariff filing of Horry Telephone Long Distance, Inc. (HTLD). The Public Service Commission, by motion on March 29, 2005, directed the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to provide an explanation as to why this tariff filing may affect the general body of subscribers.

It is our understanding this filing is intended to revamp HTLD's Basic Message Telecommunications Service and applies to both the residential and business classes. This service is the Company's default long distance offering and the approved structure is somewhat outdated. The mileage banded, time-of-day sensitive structure is being replaced by a format which is intended to be easier for customers to understand their charges for long distance calls. HTLD is proposing to eliminate the distance-sensitive element and initial and additional minute structure of a long distance call. Additionally, the Company has volume discounts for the service; however this offering will not change.

The types of calls impacted by this filing are those direct-dialed long distance calls originating in Horry and Georgetown Counties which will terminate outside of the LATA, but within the state (interLATA calls). Based upon information provided by HTLD, the intraLATA calls are within the 0-55 mileage rate band and are billed by the local exchange companies, Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and HTC Communications, Inc. In this scenario, the customers are billed lower rates than those offered by interexchange carriers.

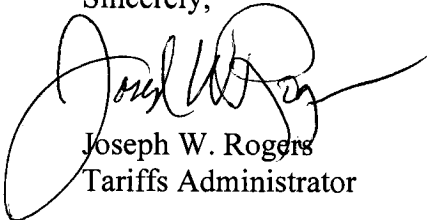
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It is our understanding that with this revision, all customers would benefit from the proposed tariff changes. Residential rates are to be set at \$.25 per minute during the day and \$.15 per minute for all other time periods including weekends. The evening/night discount period is revised commencing at 5:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The end-time of the discount period will remain at 7:00 a.m. Rates for business customers, which fall under alternative regulation, will be set at a flat \$.135 per minute.

Because this tariff change will affect the basic rates charged to all residential and business customers who have not selected another optional long distance calling plan, it is our belief this revision will affect the general body of subscribers; therefore, ORS believes the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 2004) are applicable. Furthermore, the docketing of this filing will allow ORS and the HTLD customers the ability to further analyze this filing and to provide appropriate feedback to the Commission.

I hope this is responsive to the Commission's motion. If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Rogers  
Tariffs Administrator

JWR

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